

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data loading tool for loading a target database, comprising:
 - an initialization component operable to use data and a key of a first table of a database to generate a load file identifying at least one key related to the key of the first table and data associated with the at least one key;
 - a control generator operable to generate at least one control file related to the database;
 - an extractor component operable to extract data from the database based on the load file; and
 - a loader component operable to load the data extracted by the extractor component into the target database utilizing the at least one control file.
2. The data loading tool of Claim 1, further comprising a table list identifying a plurality of tables of the database having data desirably loaded in the target database and wherein the loader component loads the data based on the table list.
3. The data loading tool of Claim 2, wherein the initialization component utilizes the table list to identify the at least one key and associated data in the tables of the database identified in the table list.
4. The data loading tool of Claim 1, wherein the control generator generates a plurality of control files, at least one of the control files having information related to the database.

5. The data loading tool of Claim 4, wherein the information related to the database provided in the at least one control file is further defined as a database structure information.
6. The data loading tool of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the control files generated by the control generator is further defined as a data file and wherein the extractor component extracts data from the database and writes the data to the data file.
7. The data loading tool of Claim 6, wherein the loader component loads the data from the data file to the target database using the at least one control file.
8. The data loading tool of Claim 7, wherein the data file is further defined as a flat file.
9. The data loading tool of Claim 1, wherein the target database is further defined as a testing database for testing new software and wherein the data loaded in the testing database is further defined as test data.
10. The data loading tool of Claim 9, wherein the database is further defined as a production database having business data.

11. A method of loading a target database, comprising:

- providing a portion of data related to data desirably loaded in the target database;
- providing a table list identifying a plurality of tables of a database maintaining data to be extracted;
- providing a first key name related to one of the plurality of tables maintaining the portion of data;
- generating a load file including at least a second key name and a second portion of data associated with a second table of the plurality of tables of the database by using a relational aspect of the plurality of tables of the database;
- generating a control file based on the database and a data file;
- extracting data from the database to the data file using the load file; and
- loading the data from the data file to the target database using the control file and the table list.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein providing the table list further comprises:

- providing a graphical user interface identifying a plurality of tables of the database;
- selecting at least one of the tables provided in the graphical user interface; and
- providing the selected at least one table in the table list.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein providing the portion of data further comprises:

- providing an input portion of a graphical user interface operable to receive input;
- and

inputting the portion of data related to the data desirably loaded in the target database into the input portion of the graphical user interface.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the first and second portions of data are substantially similar.
15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the first and second portions of data are different.
16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the control file is based on at least a portion of a structure of the database.
17. The method of Claim 11, wherein generating the load file further comprises:
 - locating the second key name in the one of the plurality of tables maintaining the portion of data;
 - identifying the second portion of data associated with the second key name;
 - identifying a second table from the tables list;
 - locating the second key name and second portion of data in the second table;
 - and
 - identifying a third key name and a third portion of data in the second table associated with the second key name and second portion of data in the second table.
18. The method of Claim 11, wherein the second key name is further defined as a primary key of the second table.

19. A method of testing an application using a test database, comprising:
- providing a table list identifying at least some of the tables of a database maintaining data;
 - generating a load list including a table name related to at least one of the tables of the database, a key name related to a key of the at least one tables and a portion of data associated with the key by using the key and the portion of data to identify a second key and a second portion of data in the at least one of the tables to associate with another key and another portion of data in another table of the database based on the relationships of the database;
 - generating at least one control file based on at least a portion of a structure of the database;
 - extracting at least some of the data from the database to a data file using the load list; and
 - loading the at least some of the data, based on the load list and using the at least one control file, from the data file to the test database;
 - testing the application using the test database.
20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the portion of data is further defined as associated with a data desirable for testing via the test database
21. The method of Claim 19, wherein the key is further defined as a primary key of the at least ones of the table and wherein the second key is further defined as a secondary key of the at least one of the tables.

22. The method of Claim 19, further comprising associating the secondary key of the at least one of the tables with a primary key of a second table based on a relational association of the at least one of the tables and second table of the database.
23. The method tool of Claim 19, further comprising providing a plurality of key names and searching the at least one of the tables for one of the plurality of key names to locate the second key.